

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /074 W

-----104703 231134Z /20

O R 230845Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6727

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL BURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2540

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: RH, PINS

SUBJECT: DEPORTATION FROM RHODESIA OF SISTER JANICE MCLAUGHLIN

1. SUMMARY: SISTER JANICE MCLAUGHLIN TRANSITTED JOHANNESBURG'S JAN SMUTS AIRPORT EVENING OF SEPTEMBER 22 ON ROUTE NYC. SHE WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS. SHE TOLD THREE NEWSMEN SHE HAD SOME REGRET OVER LEAVING PRISON IN SALIFBURY SINCE THREE COLLEAGUES WERE STILL THERE FACING TRIAL. SHE SAID SHE REMAINED DEDICATED TO LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE BY MUGABE FORCES. SHE EXPECTS RETURN TO SERVICE IN KENYA. END SUMMARY.

2. SISTER JANICE MCLAUGHLIN, LRICAN NUN OF MARYKNOLL ORDER (NY), WAS AT JAN SMUTS AIRPORT 1615 TO 1930 SEPTEMBER 22. CONGEN AND CONOFF WERE WITH HER THROUGHOUT AIRPORT STOP AND FOUND HER IN GOOD HEALTH. SHE SAID SHE WAS WELL TREATED IN SALISBURY'S MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON, PERHAPS BECAUSE SHE WAS SUBJECT OF INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. SHE HAD LIMITED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMMUNICATION DURING TREE WEEKS INPRISONMENT WITH OTHER PRISONERS, MANY OF WHOM WERE YOUNG AFRICANS APPREHENDED TRYING TO LEAVE RHODESIA TO JOIN MUGABE FORCES. ONE GIRL TWENTY-TWO HAD BEEN IN PRISON SIX YEARS.

3. CHARGES AGAINST HER AND THREE COLLEAGUES IN CATHOLIC CHURCH'S COMMISSION FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE WERE THAT THEY HAD

CONSPIRED TO ASSIST GUERRILLAS AND CREATE DESPONDENCY INSIDE RHODESIA. POLICE HAD CONFISCATED HER DIARY, MANUSCRIPT OF TEXT ON GOVERNMENT BRUTALITY, AND RADIO WITH TRANSMITTER. SHE SAID SHE DID NOT USE TRANSMITTER AND ONLY LISTENED TO VOA AND BBC ON RADIO.

4. SISTER JANICE REMAINS STRONGLY PRO-LIBERATION FORCES AND ANTI-SMITH GOVERNMENT. SHE SAID IF SHE HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO SEVEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT (EXPECTED SENTENCE FOR CHARGES), SHE THOUGH SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED BY VICTORIOUS MUGABE FORCES WITHIN YEAR OR TWO.

5. THROUGHOUT MOST OF STAY AT AIRPORT, SISTER JANICE AND CONOFFS HAD COMPANY OF ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NAMED G.P. CHISESE, WHO CLAIMED BE OFFICIAL OF ZANU. HE WAS ON SAME FLIGHT FROM SALISBURY TO JOHANNESBURG, BUT MET SISTER JANICE ONLY BY CHANCE. HE LABELLED SISTER JANICE "POPULAR HEROINE". HE SAID HE HAD BEEN PRISONER NEAR GWELA FOR SEVEN YEARS. HE (AND SISTER JANICE) EXPRESSED LITTLE INTEREST OR SUPPORT FOR ANGLO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE AND LESS HOPE FOR ITS SUCCESS. THEY BOTH FELT SOLUTION WOULD BE MILITARY OVERTHROW OF SMITH GOVERNMENT. CHISESE SAID MUGABE FORCES AND INTERNAL SUPPORTERS FELT US COULD HOLD KEY TO FASTER RESOLUTUION OF PROBLEM, BUT WAS CREATING ENEMIES AMONG ZIMBABWEANS BY (1) PERMITTING AMERICANS TO SERVE AS MERCENARIES (ONE TO TWO THOUSAND) AND (2) EXPORTING GOODS TO RHODESIA TO BOLSTER SMITH REGIME. SHIP-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MENT OF OIL BY AMERICAN COMPANIES WAS CONSIDERED PARTICULARLY NEFARIOUS. (CONOFFS TOOK PAINS TO REBUT). CHISES WAS EN ROUTE TO LONDON, WHERE HIS ADDRESS IS 6 BEVERLEY GARDENS, LONDON N.W. 2.

6. SISTER JANICE WAS INTERVIEWED BY ROBIN WRIGHT OF WASHINGTON POST, JOHN BURNS OF NY TIMES, AND MARTIN CHALLENGER OF RAND DAILY MAIL (ARTICLE BY SEPTTEL).

7. SHE SAID SHE WOULD REPORT IN NYC SEPTEMBER 23 TO HER HEADQUARTERS AND EXPECTED TO BE REASSIGNED TO KENYA, WHERE BALANCE OF HER SEVEN-YEAR TOUR HAD YET TO BE COMPLETED. IN MEANTIME, SHE HOPED VISIT FAMILY IN PITTSBURGH.

8. SISTER JANICE IS INTELLIGENT, DEDICATED IDEALIST, BUT NOT FANATICAL. SHE HAS CONSIDERABLE BACKGROUND IN JOURNALISM (MARQUETTE) AND WAS SENT ON DETAIL TO RHODESIA FROM KENYA TO ASSIST COMMISSION IN PUBLIC RELATIONS CAPACITY. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXTRADITION
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JOHANN02540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770346-1079
Format: TEL
From: JOHANNESBURG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770929/aaaaayjp.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e84a5e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1157231
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPORTATION FROM RHODESIA OF SISTER JANICE MCLAUGHLIN
TAGS: PINS, RH, SF, (MCLAUGHLIN, SISTER JANICE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e84a5e3f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009